



Problem Solving Courts Committee

Meeting Notes
October 31, 2008
12:00 pm
Conference Call

I. Welcome

Judge Surbeck called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm. Members present included Judge Blau, Judge Brugnaux, Judge Christ-Garcia, Judge Collins, Senior Judge/Judge-elect Jacobi, Judge Salinas, Judge Hopper, Chris Cunningham and Paul Southwick. IJC staff present included Jamie Bergacs, Mary Kay Hudson and Diane Mains.

II. Discussion

Judge Surbeck advised members that he spoke with Jane Seigel last week regarding the Supreme Court's FY 2010-2011 budget request. He stated that Ms. Seigel revisited the issue of a funding request for drug courts with Chief Justice Shepard in light of the committee's discussion on October 24, 2008. Ms. Seigel advised that the Chief Justice continues to be supportive of drug courts and other problem-solving courts; however, the budget will not include a separate funding request for drug courts. Ms. Seigel reported that the budget request will focus on funding probation officers. Ms. Seigel noted that the court requested continued funding for the Supreme Court's drug court grant program.

Judge Surbeck recommended that members review possible alternative strategies for funding drug courts at the local level, such as partnering with probation, community corrections and the Department of Correction.

Members expressed concern about the feasibility of partnering with probation in some jurisdictions due to high probation caseloads and the fact that some drug court case managers may not meet the professional requirements for probation officers. Members also expressed concern that several courts had participated in the 2007 drug court study with the expectation that the results would be used to support a legislative funding request.

In order to explore potential funding alternatives, members discussed the need for additional information regarding Indiana drug courts budgets for 2009. IJC staff will survey all drug courts to determine projected shortfalls for 2009 and an estimated per diem rate for each drug court.

Approved 12.5.2008

Judge Surbeck asked members that were willing to initiate local level discussions regarding developing partnerships with probation and community corrections if those partnerships do not currently exist. Members will be asked to report on any information received during these discussions at the next meeting. Judge Surbeck stated he is willing to initiate a discussion with Judge Stoner, Probation Committee Chair, regarding this issue.

III. Adjournment and next meeting date

Judge Surbeck adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:15 pm. The committee will meet again on Friday, December 5, 2008 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. The meeting will be held in person at the Indiana Judicial Center.